What is claimed is:

1. A printing method for an optical printer wherein a fluorescent display panel is driven as a light source of a printing head based on electronic image data to print an image on a photographic recording medium, the fluorescent display panel having an array of light emitting elements, the printing method being characterized in that a preliminary emission process is executed before the optical printer actually starts printing an image, to drive all of the light emitting elements of the fluorescent display panel for a constant time to remove deposited residual gas off the light emitting elements.

2. A printing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printing head is moved out of an exposure area of the photographic recording medium during the preliminary emission process.

3. A printing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preliminary emission process is executed immediately before each image starts being printed.

4. A printing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preliminary emission process is executed immediately after a power switch of the printer is turned on.

5. A printer-incorporated electronic still camera having an imaging device for obtaining electronic image signals from

optical images, a storage device for storing the electronic image signals in a memory, and a printing device for printing an image on a photographic recording medium based on the electronic image signals read out from the memory, the still camera comprising:

a fluorescent display panel as a light source of a printing head of the printing device, the fluorescent display panel comprising an array of light emitting elements in a vacuum container; and

a driving device for driving the light emitting elements, the driving device making a preliminary emission process to drive all of the light emitting elements for a constant time before driving the light emitting elements to print an image on the photosensitive recording medium based on the electronic image signals.

6. A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a timer for measuring an inactive period of the fluorescent display panel, wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process when the timer detects that the fluorescent display panel has not been driven for a predetermined time.

7. A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a battery detection device for detecting whether power source batteries are loaded in the still camera or not, wherein the driving device makes

the preliminary emission process when the battery detection device detects that the power source batteries are newly loaded.

8. A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a detection device for detecting whether the photographic recording medium is loaded in the still camera or not, wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process when the detection device detects that the photographic recording medium is newly loaded.

9. A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 8, wherein the photographic recording medium is a self-development type photo film sheet, and the still camera is provided with a pack loading chamber for loading a film pack containing a plurality of self-development type photo film sheets therein, and wherein the detection device is located in the film loading chamber to detect whether the film pack is loaded or not.

10. A printer-incorporated electronic still camera as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a head scanning device for moving the printing head from an end to another end of an exposure area of the photographic recording medium to print an image in the exposure area, wherein the head scanning device removes the printing head from the exposure area during the preliminary emission process.